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LB 953

reimburse this particular employee, why should it be that the body of employers are the ones who pay it? Why isn't it paid out of General Funds? It doesn't have anything to do with employers at all, so why isn't it a social program that we just pay out of General Funds? In other words, what I'm getting at is I think we're starting to mix up concepts here and, as much as one might want to mix concepts for the purpose of dealing with such a terrible problem as this, it seems to me contrary to what this concept has been all about originally and it seems to me worth a little thought to ask the question of whether this is an appropriate kind of concern for this particular body of law or whether we ought not to be funding it out of the broader social pool that involves all of us. If it's an abuse problem and we think it should be compensated why would we put this burden on employers who had nothing to do with the problem?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That would be my general philosophic question and the cause of my doubt about this particular bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this portion of the law that we're dealing with by way of LB 953 talks about the circumstances under which benefits will not be charged against an employer's experience account. They mention various things related to the reasons for an employee leaving employment, which would result in a certain period of disqualification for that employee. In those circumstances it is deemed that the employee voluntarily took action, without being coerced through the employer, to leave. Senator Beutler mentioned that this is a new departure in terms of how we view this fund and its use, and I would agree. It is a new realization by society that there must be an acceptance as a fact of life that spousal and domestic abuse have reached epidemic proportions in this society. It is being recognized in this bill that you have an individual, it could be male or female, who is working a job satisfactorily, doing everything that could be asked of that person, but because of circumstances